Lafayette Ballet Elect Officers

With the first formal meeting of its board of directors now successfully behind them, members of the new Lafayette Festival Ballet continue the momentum developed during the organizational period. This recently incorporated group will be devoted exclusively to ballet. Although centered at the Jeffrie Perkins Wall Ballet Studio, the LFB should be thought of as an independent entity. Wall is the director of the group and is quick to emphasize the need for ballet training as core discipline for individuals intent to perform. Members of the Festival Ballet group are selected by audition through the scrutiny of disinterested qualified observers. Members must practice with the troupe during its regular practice sessions but may otherwise be members of any school.

The troupe activities involve gathering dancers and production personnel, volunteers to aid with other phases of ballet performances, and in a general effort to foster the growth of dance appreciation in the area. If you are interested in the ballet group, you may phone the director at 233-9972 or the vice president at 637-6476 for further details.

A five-member board of trustees and seven officers interact to provide direction. Jeffrie Wall is the director with Talitha Mes functioning as the assistant director of LFB. Ronald Dauterive is president; Sandra Girouard, vice president; H. Kent Wall, general manager. The seven officers include Kay Rees, secretary; Marily Fournet, treasurer; Ronnie Heymann, financial advisor; Mrs. Lewis Faciane, wardrobe mistress; Carrol Spell is the parliametarian; and historians, Joan Heymann and Barbara H. Phelan.

It should be understood that Lafayette Festival Ballet has goals of professional quality dance but not economics. It is a non-profit organization and dancers will not earn a livelihood at their efforts. LFB is concerned with providing expression of significant work by serious, dedicated dancers. Both the director and her assistant, Jeffrie Perkins Wall and Talitha Mes, are experienced in the arts, especially dance. Wall studied widely in the United States while Mes studied in Europe.

The Ballet group is eager to receive input from anyone inclined to support such a community-wide organization.

Wall left her home town of Sulphur on a scholarship to the National Ballet School in Washington, D.C., when she was 15. By the time she had finished high school, Wall had studied with the Maryland Ballet in Baltimore and the School of American Ballet in New York City. She was associated with the group containing Margo Fonteyn during these years. Eventually she was to be a member of the National Ballet Company in Washington and the Maryland Ballet Company. Following a brief intersticial period, the dancer moved back to Louisiana and opened her studio on Vermilion Street in Lafayette. The ballet school's reputation grew quickly and the enrollment steadily increased, since Africa, she has a well-developed dance/music background. Mes first studied at the Graz in Austria then studied in Germany, and finally with the Ballet Mersailles.

The doors first opened in 1975.